

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 01996 081857Z

13

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /163 W

----- 106097

R 081705Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9590

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 1996

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUGJ: SWARAN SINGH ON INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER SINGH CRITICISED US INDIAN OCEAN DEPLOYMENTS BUT STRESSED INDIAN DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE US IN THE LEAD ARTICLE OF FEBRUARY 3, 1974 "WEEKLY ROUND TABLE". (COPY POUCHED NEA/INS). THIS IS THE FIRST HIGH-LEVEL SURVEY OF INDIAN POLICY TO COME OUT SINCE THE BREZHNEV VISIT. IN ADDITION TO FAMILIAR GLOSS ON NON-ALIGNMENT, THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAFFLES ON ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY, COMMENTS WARMLY ON

CONSISTENT SOVIET SUPPORT, WANTS GOOD RELATIONS WITH CHINA, AND BELIEVES THERE IS NOW BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND IRAN. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 01996 081857Z

1. IN AN ARTICLE IN FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER DINESH SINGH'S WEEKLY "ROUND TABLE" (PROBABLY WRITTEN IN DECEMBER),

FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH BISNDLY SURVEYS INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY WITHOUT EVER MENTIONING OIL OR INDIA'S FOREIGN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. IN A PAYAGE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE, SINGH SAID "AS REGARDS THE PRESENCE OF THE US TASK FORCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, OUR VIEW IS QUITE CLEAR. WE HAVE TOLD THE AMERICANS THAT BRINGING IN OF NAVAL UNITS, INCLUDING AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, IN THIS REGION, WITHOUT ANY OSTENSIBLE OBJECTIVE, HAS CAUSED CONCERN TO ALL LITTORAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING INDIA, AND THAT THIS TYPE OF SHOW OF FORCE WILL NEVER BE RELISHED BY ANY COUNTRY IN THE REGION". SINGH ALSO CLAIMED THAT "TO KEEP AWAY OUTSIDE FORCES FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN, THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, INCLUDING INDIA, HAVE TO STRENGTHEN THEIR NAVIES".

2. IN DIFFUSE COMMENTARY ON ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY, SINGH RECALLED BREZHNEV'S ADDRESS TO THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT, AGREED WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF RELAXING TENSION, BUT ADDED WE HAVE TO KEEP IN MIND THE POLITICAL COMPLEXITY IN THE CONTINENT. CONSISTENT WITH INDIA'S EMPHASIS ON THE ECONOMIC ANGLE, SINGH SAID "MORE INTENSIVE COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, WOULD HELP IN STRENGTHENING MUTUALITY OF INTEREST AMONG COUNTRIES OF THE REGION". IT TOOK EUROPE 28 YEARS TO CONVENE A SECURITY CONFERENCE, BUT "WE SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID OF THESE IDEAS MERELY BECAUSE THEY COME FROM ONE COUNTRY OR ANOTHER. IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE THE IDEA COMES FROM THE LEADER OF A FRIENDLY COUNTRY, AND THEREFORE, WE SHOULD VIEW IT IN THE SPIRIT IN WHICH IT IS OFFERED".

3. SINGH FURTHER MAINTAINED "THE INDIAN PLEA TO TREAT THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE SHOULD BE STUDIED IN THE CONTEXT OF ASIAN SECURITY"; (COMMENT) WE HEARD FROM THE SOVIETS HERE THAT THE INDIANS IN TALKING TO THE SOVIETS TEND TO POINT TO THE IOZP AS A FIRST STEP TOWARD ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY, THAT THE SOVIETS DON'T SHARE THIS VIEW, AND THAT THEY MERELY ACKNOWLEDGE AN IOZP COULD BE A COMPONENT OF ASIAN SECURITY. SOPHISTRY PERHAPS, BUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 01996 081857Z

THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME DIFFERENCE IN APPROACH.)

4. AS FOR THE US, SINGH SAID RELATIONS ARE NOW BETTER "AND WE WILL DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO NORMALISE AND STRENGTHEN THESE RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY, RECIPROCITY, AND MUTUAL RESPECT. IN THE POST-1971 PERIOD, BUT INDIA AND THE USA HAVE MADE CONSCIOUS AND DELIBERATE EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT OUR RELATIONS IMPROVE." SINGH RECALLED HIS TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY IN OCTOBER, THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON INDIA IN SFRC TESTIMONY IN

SEPTEMBER, THE RESOLUTION OF THE PL 480 QUESTION "TO THE MUTUAL SATISFACTION OF THE TWO COUNTRIES", AND SAID "IT IS MY ASSESSMENT THAT INDO-US RELATIONS HAVE ENTERED A PHASE WHERE A CONSTRUCTIVE, COOPERATIVE, MATURE RELATIONSHIP CAN BE BUILT UP BEFORE THE TWO COUNTRIES".

5. WITH REGARD TO THE USSR, SINGH SAID "WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD THE SOVIET SUPPORT AT MOST CRITICAL MOMENTS ON VITAL POLITICAL ISSUES". HE NOTED A GROWING VOLUME OF TRADE AND CLAIMED THERE IS EXTENSIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES' PLANNING COMMISSIONS.

6. AS FOR CHINA, "WHATEVER MAY BE OUR DIFFERENCES OR DISPUTES, THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE PEOPLES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES WISH TO BE ABLE TO LIVE IN PEACE AS GOOD NEIGHBORS. WE WANT GOOD RELATIONS WITH CHINA". NOTING THAT OTHER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES HAD SETTLED BORDER PROBLEMS THROUGH PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS, SINGH SAID "THERE IS NO REASON WHY INDIA AND CHINA SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DO THE SAME. IT IS OUR FIRM BELIEF THAT INDIA AND CHINA CAN, AND MUST, NORMALISE THEIR RELATIONS". "HOWEVER," HE ADDED, "IT IS NECESSARY THAT POSITIVE STEPS MUST BE TAKEN BY BOTH SIDES FOR THIS PURPOSE."

7. ON RELATIONS WITH IRAN, SINGH SAID THERE WAS NO CONFLICT IN FUNDAMENTAL INTERESTS AND RECENT EXCHANGES "HAVE LED TO A FAR BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US AND HAVE REMOVED SOME MISGIVINGS WHICH MAY IN THE PAST HAVE ARISEN". HE BELIEVED THAT IN THE FUTURE THERE WOULD BE "A CLEARER APPRECIATION AND INCREASED CONFIDENCE REGARDING EACH OTHER'S POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES", THAT THERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 NEW DE 01996 081857Z

WAS CONSIDERABLE SCOPE FOR COLLABORATION IN OIL REFINERIES AND PETRO-CHEMICALS, AND THAT, ALTHOUGH IRAN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH PAKISTAN IS WELL KNOWN, IRAN APPRECIATES INDIA'S APPROACH TO THE SOLUTION OF SUBCONTINENT PROBLEMS.
SCHNEIDER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY BASES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE01996
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740245/aaaabqoc.tel
Line Count: 156
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, IN, US, IO, (SINGH, SWARAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005